

Representative BOBBY RUSH, who worked so hard to pass this bill as well.

We look forward now to President Biden quickly signing this long-delayed bill into law.

BURIAL EQUITY FOR GUARDS AND RESERVES ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 288, S. 2089.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2089) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITIONS ON RESTRICTING INTERMENT OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS IN CERTAIN STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES.

(a) GRANTS.—Section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2), by striking "The Secretary may" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (i), the Secretary may";

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (k); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsections:

"(i)(1) The Secretary may not establish a condition for a grant under this section that restricts the ability of a State receiving such a grant to inter in a veterans' cemetery owned by that State any individual described in paragraph (2) solely by reason of the ineligibility of such individual for burial in an open national cemetery under the control of the National Cemetery Administration under section 2402(a) of this title.

"(2) An individual described in this paragraph is the following:

"(A) Any member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable or whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of such a reserve component.

"(B) Any member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard who was discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable or whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard.

"(C) Any member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force whose death occurs under conditions other than dishonorable while a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

"(D) Any spouse of any member described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

"(E) Any minor child or unmarried adult child (as such terms are defined in section 2402(a) of this title) of any member described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

"(j) The Secretary may not deny an application for a grant under this section solely on the basis that the State receiving such grant may use funds from such grant to expand, improve, operate, or maintain a veterans' cemetery in which interment of individuals described in subsection (i)(2) is allowed."

(b) PROHIBITION ON ENFORCING CERTAIN CONDITIONS ON GRANTS FOR STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not enforce a condition on a grant described in subsection (i)(1) of section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), that was established before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PLOT ALLOWANCES.—Section 2303 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

"(1) the Secretary shall pay to the relevant State, agency, political subdivision, or tribal organization, as the case may be, the sum of \$700 (as increased from time to time under subsection (c)) as a plot or interment allowance for such veteran if the veteran is buried (without charge for the cost of a plot or interment) in a cemetery, or a section of a cemetery, that—

"(A) is used solely for the interment of persons who are—

"(i) eligible for burial in a national cemetery;

"(ii) members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces not otherwise eligible for such burial or former members of such a reserve component not otherwise eligible for such burial who are discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; or

"(iii) described in section 2408(i)(2) of this title; and

"(B) is—

"(i) owned by a State or by an agency or political subdivision of a State; or

"(ii) on trust land owned by, or held in trust for, a tribal organization.";

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting "tribal organization," after "of a State,"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(e) In this section, the terms 'tribal organization' and 'trust land' have the meanings given those terms in section 3765 of this title."

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2089), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO CLARIFY THE ROLE OF DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2545.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2545) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2545) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third, and passed.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 537, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 537) designating March 2022 as "National Women's History Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month to recognize the extraordinary achievements of past generations of women and to pay tribute to the vital role they have played in the political, economic, and social development of this Nation.

Women's History Month provides a special opportunity to reflect upon the numerous contributions made by women who touch all aspects of our society—from government, to business, the arts and sciences, the military, and much more. I look upon the courage our predecessors displayed with great admiration, and I continue to be inspired by those who blazed the trail for women like me.

I am reminded of how incredibly proud I was to see the Smithsonian Women's History Museum Act, which I coled with Senator Susan Collins, enacted in December 2020. This law establishes a long-overdue, permanent museum to collect, study, and create programs that celebrate the contributions and experiences of women. The Women's History Museum will be established on or near the National Mall, and I look forward to hearing about the site when it is announced later this year.

However, it is with sadness that the past year brought with it the loss of a number of pioneering women, including the First Lady of Television Betty White; Sarah Weddington, who represented "Jane Roe" in the landmark Roe v. Wade case; authors bell hooks, Beverly Cleary, and Joan Didion; and

Motown vocalists Mary Wilson and Wanda Young. Although these icons are no longer with us, their contributions will live on, and their accomplishments have shattered glass ceilings for future generations of women. May we honor their work and memory with a commitment to empower and support future women leaders.

But the future is bright. In the 117th Congress, we have reached a new high-water mark for women in politics, as more women are now serving in elected office than ever before. There are now 148 women serving in Congress: 124 women in the House of Representatives and 24 women in the U.S. Senate. Just last year, the Senate confirmed Janet Yellen to be the first female Treasury Secretary. Just recently, President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the Nation's first Black woman as a Supreme Court Justice.

These are exciting times for women indeed, and much progress has been made. Yet we still have a lot of work cut out for us. We must come together to address the ongoing pandemic, which has had devastating consequences for the health of our country and economy. The pandemic has also uniquely harmed women and girls—especially women of color. A disproportionate number of women have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and are often unable to maintain work commitments with children learning from home while schools are closed. This unequal harm endured by women during the pandemic reminds us that the march toward equality is yet to be done. We must continue our work to ensure fairness and equity for women everywhere.

As we convene to celebrate Women's History Month, I ask my colleagues to celebrate with me how far we have come and to continue the fight for the progress of all women—especially those who are struggling during these trying times.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 537) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3757

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3757) to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products,

liquefied natural gas, and coal from the Russian Federation.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator CRAPO to express grave concern with the vulnerability of supply chains and the long-term implications if we do not act now to develop a secure supply chain of critical minerals. In light of the aggression shown by our adversaries, supply chain security is more important than ever.

Our Nation is at a crossroads; Russia has invaded Ukraine. At the same time, China continues to use economic coercion to control global markets and shape countries' political decisions. With Congress' support, this administration must take drastic and targeted measures to ensure our Nation takes the right path to advance U.S. competitiveness and maintain a strong position in domestic and foreign markets, including critical minerals production.

Critical minerals are vital to the emerging technologies that will underpin the future economic well-being and prosperity of this Nation. In recognition of these important minerals, under President Trump, the Department of the Interior developed a list of 35 critical minerals, a process that Congress later codified. That list, just last week, expanded to 50. Our home State of Idaho is rich in many of these minerals—some of which are fundamental to energy and national security applications—such as antimony and cobalt.

Antimony and cobalt serve as critical components in grid storage batteries and other electrification implements essential to providing reliable energy sources to American homes and businesses. In addition to its energy contribution, antimony serves as a critical component of ammunition, armaments, and other national security platforms. Although these minerals serve as essential components in highly utilized U.S. products, 53 percent of antimony comes from China, and another 23 percent comes from Russia. Most cobalt is sourced from the Democratic

Republic of the Congo—DRC—where the Chinese Government has subsidized companies that engage in nontransparent practices, dominate the industry, and undermine the prosperity and rights of the Congolese.

Aside from mineral production, Idaho is responsible for cutting-edge mineral research. We are proud to be the home of the Idaho National Lab, the Nation's premier nuclear energy laboratory, whose research is paramount to any future clean energy strategy. Unfortunately, the Biden administration chose to remove uranium from the critical minerals list, which leaves the Nation's nuclear fleet even more reliant on Russian fuel.

As tensions rise with Russia and the potential of additional sanctions loom, China will look to take advantage of the void left by Russia's isolation in the market. While we need to take strong actions on Russia, the reality is that we source many of our raw minerals from them. As we tighten our grip on their financial system and exports, we must prioritize domestic sourcing and reduce our reliance on countries like Russia and China.

The time is now for this administration to take real action to prioritize a strong domestic supply chain for these essential minerals. We do not want to compromise any of our environmental or other standards. We are simply calling on the administration to prioritize the timely completion of the permits of currently proposed projects so we may take back control of a fundamental piece of many of our essential industries: critical minerals production.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING HELEN SELIG

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the life and service of former Hot Springs mayor Helen Selig.

Selig was a beloved member of the Hot Springs community and made a substantial difference in the lives of so many Arkansans. She not only served as mayor of Hot Springs from 1994–2000, but also played a crucial role in fulfilling countless projects aimed at bettering the city.

As mayor, Selig saw great success throughout her 6-year tenure, and it was something that was recognized by citizens and leaders alike. Hot Springs city manager Bill Burrough reflected that, "Hot Springs is truly a better place because of her passion, the work that she did, and her influence. When Helen Selig was involved, people would listen."

Selig has been praised widely for her involvement in a variety of community projects, including the construction of the convention center. In the recent weeks, dozens of local leaders have been outspoken in their praise and gratitude for her dedication to Hot Springs.